

Happy Birthday

Mike Herbert	Apr. 1	Heather Wilkins	Apr. 27
Katherine Fritzler	Apr. 2	Cary Wilkinson	Apr. 28
Roberta Kincheloe	Apr. 4	Nicole Williams	Apr. 28
Jimmy Davis	Apr. 5	Cathy Fox	Apr. 30
Bobby Andrews	Apr. 6	Loretta Hodges	May 1
Kay Hardison	Apr. 6	Michael Woolard	May 4
Clarence Gray	Apr. 7	Glen Whitehead	May 6
Earl Godley	Apr. 8	Monica Squires	May 7
Joseph Rieg	Apr. 11	Brian Early	May 9
Alan O'Kane	Apr. 12	Jasper Hardison	May 11
Willie Clark	Apr. 15	Kenny Lewis	May 11
Teresa Waters	Apr. 15	Steve Waters	May 12
Cheri Biddix	Apr. 16	Jeffery White	May 12
Charles Garris	Apr. 16	Susan Hodges	May 16
Dale Radcliff	Apr. 17	Maxcy Meekins	May 16
Amber Carter	Apr. 18	Lynn Lewis	May 18
Jesse Hodges	Apr. 18	Velvet Blizzard	May 22
Ellen Nowicki	Apr. 18	Carolyne Everett	May 23
Sandy Blizzard	Apr. 19	Carroll Ham	May 23
Donald Taylor	Apr. 19	Richard Alligood	May 25
Gary Johnson	Apr. 21	Keith Hardt	May 26
David Williams	Apr. 21	Allen Lewis	May 27
Jason Revels	Apr. 24	Teresa Hamilton	May 29
Bobby Roberson	Apr. 25	Sam Crawford	May 30
Alan McCutcheon	Apr. 26	Scottie Taylor	May 31
Jonathan Peterson	Apr. 26		

\$\$\$ available for 1st time buyers

If you are willing to save a small amount regularly and learn how to use your money wisely, you may be eligible for the IDA First Time Home Buyers Program, a partnership of the City of Washington and the Beaufort County Program for the Rural Carolinas (BCPRC). If you are a Beaufort County resident and have never owned your own home and have an interest in home ownership, visit the BCPRC headquarters at 110 West Martin Luther King Drive or call 946-5862 to set up an appointment. The IDA program is designed to offer up to \$3,000 in down payment assistance.

City Times

April/May 2005. Contributors this issue: Alston Tankard (Electric), Mark Yates and Brian Rushton (Fire-Rescue-EMS), Susan Hodges and Dianna Toler (Human Resources), Sandy Blizzard (Police), Bobby Roberson (Planning & Development)

City information also available from

- City 9 (Cox Cable)
- www.Washington-NC.com



Keith Alligood, Scott Owens and Tom Hatfield install a pole as part of the system providing electric service to a new amphitheatre near Bath. (Alston Tankard photo)

Electric Department projects help Bath celebrate its 300th

Washington Electric Utilities is marking its 100th anniversary of service in 2005 by helping the Town of Bath celebrate its 300th birthday. New electric system construction consisting of a primary line extension near White Post between Washington and Bath is serving the new amphitheater owned by Tom Ormond and family. The amphitheatre is being constructed for the revival of the outdoor drama “Blackbeard: Knight of the Black Flag” as part of the Town of Bath’s Tricentennial Celebration. The drama will be presented on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights starting at 8:45 p.m.from June 30 to August 13. Future entertainment will be scheduled at the amphitheatre after the drama ends.

Washington Electric Utilities, a Bath Tricentennial Celebration sponsor, also donated installation of underground electric facilities so that the Town of Bath could install new street lighting fixtures erected in time for the festivities.

Another recent project in Washington upgraded electric service for the 120/208 bank serving Norman’s Furniture Outlet. The overhead utility crew changed over the 34kva and 12 kva circuit at the corner of Gladden and Third streets. Linemen had to work these lines “hot” to keep power running to customers. All lines have to be carefully insulated to protect linemen from exposure to live wire and to meet OSHA standards.

Officer saves family from perishing in fire

Washington Police Sgt. Ben Sheppard most likely saved the lives of a Washington family who had been asleep in a burning house on January 13. Sheppard discovered the burning house at 1:55 a.m. while on routine patrol, following the unusual smell of smoke and an orange glow in the sky. He discovered a house at 404 Charlotte Street fully engulfed in flames, which also were threatening the occupied home next door at 402 Charlotte Street. He quickly ran to the door and pounded on it to alert the sleeping family, rousing young Mary Moore from her sleep, who woke her parents. Sgt. Sheppard assisted the family in safely fleeing the house as one wall and the roof area began to burn. Washington City Council presented Sgt. Sheppard with a life-saving medal of valor at the March meeting. Sgt. Sheppard is a 15-year veteran with the department and joins Lt. Steve Szabo in being recognized for life-saving efforts in recent months.

Free smoke alarms for homes

Washington Fire-Rescue-EMS has received a grant from the US Department of Health and Human Services to purchase and install 110 smoke detectors in Washington homes. The station also will be installing a safety message sign in front of the building. If your house is inside the city limits and does not have a smoke alarm or a working smoke alarm, contact Lt. Brian Rushton at 948-9403 to schedule installation of a smoke alarm. There is no charge for the smoke alarm or installation.

City Holidays

Memorial Day. Monday, May 30

Independence Day. Monday, July 4

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CityTimes

**A Newsletter For City Of
Washington Employees**

April/May 2005

City staff adjusting to major changes in top management

Following Steve Harrell’s resignation as City Manager in mid-March due to personal reasons, Mayor L. Stewart Rumley resigned from the elected office he has held for 10 years and accepted appointment as Interim City Manager. Washington City Council elected first-term Councilman Mickey Gahagan as Mayor.

City Council will be appointing a fifth member to fill Gahagan’s vacant seat. Council also is searching for someone to fill the City Manager’s position permanently.

Rumley said his priorities as interim city manager include instilling a spirit of teamwork throughout the organization, improving attention to the details involved in providing excellent public service, and ensuring that City Council has appropriate involvement in making decisions that impact current and future City operations and budgets. “My management style is not one that manages projects, but, rather, manages the people carrying out the projects,” he explained.

Staff recognized at Employee Appreciation Lunch

Approximately 250 current and retired employees attended the Employee Recognition Luncheon on February 16 at the Civic Center.

Human Resources extends a special thanks to Brenda Ruffin and Garleen Woolard for their time and creativity in planning and organizing the event, to Carolyn Stroud for developing the employee slide show, and to those who contributed pictures for the slide show.

The following Services Awards for the years 2003 and 2004 were distributed:

2003 Awards. 5 years — Cynthia Bennett, Phil Cameron, Jerry Davis, Jeffery Everett, Rose Ann Fennell, Stephanie Godley, Gary Johnson, Jennifer Shea, Matthew Shetrone, Jerome Tyson; 10 years — Ronald Godley, Mike Herbert, Maxcy Meekins, Larry Rhem, Carolyn Stroud; 15 years — Willie Blount, Lee Dawson, Eddie Edwards, Bill Hayes, Rachael Rucienski; 20 years — Bill Ebison, Earl

Godley, Glen Whitehead, Louis Williams; 25 years — Debra Hicks, Sherman Little, William Tingen; Part-time — Eddie Bryant (5 years), Brad Sikes (5 years)

2004 Awards. 5 years — Matthew Bailey, Ron Black, Bobby Boyd, Ted Day, Jr., Kelly Easler, Angela Flowers, Ronnie Flowers, Bruce Johnson, Shane Lewis, William Little, Seth Paul, Mark Peed, Sharon Probert, Anita Radcliffe; 10 years — Kevin Chapman, David Curtis, Gil Davis,

See Employees recognized, page 2

And the winner is . . .

City Times has been chosen as the name of the City of Washington employee newsletter. It received the most votes from the 165 employees who voted. Jerry Davis (Police) won the \$20 Lowe’s gift card in a drawing from the names of all employees who voted.

INSIDE

Electric Department helps Bath celebrate its 300th birthday

Four City departments to play “hard ball” in fight against cancer

Got Blood? Give Some!

City of Washington
P.O. Box 1988
Washington, NC 27889
252-975-9300 fax 252-974-6461

Wellness In The Works

Give up some of your blood on Friday, May 13

The City’s annual Blood Drive will be held at the Civic Center on Friday, May 13. In previous years we have collected more than 50 units of blood. As you know, the blood supply continues to be in high demand. If you are not able to give blood, but would like to participate please volunteer to assist with registration, snacks, etc. *Free t-shirts will be given to blood donors and volunteers!*

Yoga Anyone? Yoga is a great way to relieve stress and improve flexibility. City employees can enjoy yoga at no charge at the Moore Aquatic & Fitness Center on Mondays and Wednesdays from 12:15-12:45 p.m. during the month of April. Participants should wear comfortable clothes. Continuation of the class depends on actual participation.

Prizes for Exercise? That’s right. The *Blue Points* program through Blue Cross Blue Shield offers prize incentives when you let them know you have participated in most any physical activity, including working in the yard or other work that requires some physical exertion. You can log your activity through the Internet at <http://www.bcbsnc.com/bluepoints/> or you may visit or call the Human Resources Department for an Activity Log form.

Walking Program Concludes. *Time to Get Movin’* — *Walk 40 Hours* concluded on October 31. Employees were encouraged to walk 40 hours over a 26-week period. Of the 29 City employees who participated, 13 met the 40-hour goal. All participants received a certificate, and those who met the goal were treated to a reception and received a small prize. Congratulations to Reatha Johnson (City Manager’s Office) who walked the most – an amazing 305 hours. Reatha received a \$25 gift certificate to Wal-Mart. Also among the top five finishers were David Carraway (208.25) hours, Joe Stringer (170.75 hours), Brenda Ruffin (163.50 hours), and Carolynne Everett (134.25 hours). Other employees meeting the 40-hour goal were Sharon Probert, Glenn Cushing, Gil Davis, Katie Fritzler, Anita Radcliffe, Michelle Everette and Hope Woolard.

Health Fair. We hope everyone enjoyed the City Health Fair in November. Many

thanks to the 42 vendors and 180 employees who attended! The Wellness Committee did a tremendous job and has indicated a desire to make this an annual event.

Monitor Your Blood Pressure. High blood pressure is often called the “silent killer” because it can present no symptoms. Be sure to get your blood pressure checked regularly, particularly if you know you are prone to high blood pressure.

Employees recognized at annual luncheon

continued from page 1

Jesse Hodges, Teresa Waters; *15 years* — Jimmie Lee Cole, Carolynne Everett, Gloria Moore, Robbie Rose, Ben Sheppard, Stephen Waters; *20 years* — Bobby Andrews, Jimmy Davis, Jasper Hardison, Roberta Kincheloe, Jimmy Pollard, Joe Stringer, Scottie Taylor; *25 years* — Michele Everette, Al Leggett, Mark Wesley, Willie Ruffin; *30 years* — Richard Moore, Garleen Woolard; *Part-time* — Phil Howard (5 years), Mazelle Beach (10 years), Faye Roebuck (15 years), Carrie Blount (60 years)

In addition to the service awards, the following employees were recognized for attendance based on no use of sick leave: Bobby Roberson, Wayne Harrell, Rita Thompson, Carol Williams, James Ivey, Bill Lurvey, Michelle Everette, Jackie Beamon, Jack Gurkin, Keith Hardt, Willie Hill, Bill Vaughan, Brenda Ruffin, Frankie Buck, David Gibbs, Carroll Ham, Carroll Whitehurst, Joe Stringer, Sandy Blizzard, Mike Herbert, Seth Paul, Bobby Boyd, Lee Dawson, Robbie Rose, Mark Yates, Richard Moore, Jimmy Davis, Alan McCutcheon, Mark Glass, Jeremy Wetherington, Gary Johnson, Phillip Mobley, Bobby Andrews, Carolynne Everett, Homer Wallace, Sam Robinson, Gil Davis, Laura Smithwick, Teresa Hamilton, and Kristi Hardison.

Need Someone To Talk To?

Your EAP can provide confidential help with personal problems like relationship issues, drug and/or alcohol problems, anxiety, depression, stress, burnout, legal and financial issues, and elder care.

**Call 1-888-800-8711
www.EAPartnerships.com**

Learn about retirement planning on Tues., May 3

The Local Governmental Employees’ Retirement System will present a retirement planning seminar for City of Washington employees on Tuesday, May 3, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon in the Municipal Building, Council Chambers. The seminar is available to all interested City employees. Newer employees and those closer to retirement (within 5 years) will particularly benefit from the presentation.

City department softball tournament to benefit Relay

Teams of employees representing the Electric, Public Works, Police and Fire-Rescue-EMS departments will play a softball tournament benefiting Relay for Life on Saturday, April 16, at McConnell Sports Complex (Field 1). Play begins at 11 a.m. with Electric against Public Works. Police plays Fire-Rescue-EMS around 12:30 p.m., and the championship game is set for 2 p.m. Admission is free, and half of the proceeds from concessions sold on April 16 will go toward the City’s Relay for Life team. So bring your hungry family!

Relay is April 29-30 at Wagner Stadium, Washington High School. Team members will be selling food items as well as conductor hats and whistles to support this year’s theme: “Stop Cancer In Its Tracks!” The City is fielding one 22-member team with a goal to raise \$5,000.

Thanks for your contribution to 2005 United Way campaign

The United Way Campaign Committee – Matthew Bailey, Gil Davis, Charles Garris, David Gibbs, Jasper Hardison, Gloria Moore, Sharon Probert, Brenda Ruffin, Alston Tankard, and Hope Woolard – thanks all City employees who made a contribution and/or pledge to the Beaufort County United Way. City employees pledged a total \$8,047.20 for calendar year 2005. Thanks also to the staff of the Public Works Department, who received the departmental award for 2005. Forty-two percent of the City employees making a pledge to the United Way work in Public Works. All City employees contributing to the United Way will be invited to a picnic this Spring.

Employee News

Personal

♦ Torrye Rogers, son of **Connie Graddy** (Electric-Customer Services) celebrated his second birthday on March 22. Torrye attends CDC in Washington. ♦ **Clarence Gray** (Electric-Customer Service) thanks the Electric Department for sponsoring his barbecue contest entry at 2004 Smoke on the Water. He also extends thanks to **Kay Hardison** (Electric-Customer Services) and his cooking and decorating team of **Garleen Woolard** (Finance-Information Systems), **Brenda Ruffin** (Electric-Meter Services), **Bobby Roberson** (Planning & Development Director) and **Carolyn Stroud** (Communication Services Director). ♦ **Stephanie Jarvis** (Finance-Accounting) and Mack Godley were married on September 18. ♦ Aaron Mobley, son of **Philip Mobley** (Parks & Recreation Director) was named First Team *Washington Daily News* All-Area Baseball as a Washington High School senior. ♦ **John Rodman** (Planning & Development) and **Frankie Buck** (Public Works-Assistant Director) coached their sons’ Division 2 Soccer team to regular season and tournament championships. Players were Jack Rodman and Dodge Buck. Rodman also coached his other son’s Division 3 Soccer Team to regular season and tournament runner-up. Players included George Rodman and James Hamblin, son of Mayor Pro Tem **Mark Hamblin**. Luke Stroud, son of **Carolyn Stroud** (Communications Director) was a member of the team that won the Division 4 regular season and tournament championships. ♦ Hillary Stringer, daughter of Cindy and **Joe Stringer** (Police Chief) has a role in the upcoming community theatre production *Into The Woods, Jr.*, which will be performed

Employee News Submissions

Employees who would like to submit personal and career achievement news to *City Times* can do so by completing the form *Got News? Then Tells Us About It* distributed periodically in the paycheck envelope. Quality digital photographs are welcome, but publication is not guaranteed due to limited space. Information about new hires, promotions and retirements is provided to *City Times* through the Human Resources Office. News also can be emailed to the *City Times* editor at cstroud@washingtonnnc.ws.

Fire-Rescue-EMS recognizes employees



Chief Jimmy Davis congratulates Jeremy Wetherington, Gary Johnson & Toby Wainwright. (Mark Yates photo)

Fire-Rescue-EMS recognized employees for the following achievements in 2004 at its annual Christmas dinner: *Exemplary Performance* — Johnathan Hardin, Doug Bissette, Toby Wainwright, Jeremy Wetherington and Gary Johnson; *Co-Volunteer Firefighter of the Year* — Robert Kirk and Robbie Cox; *Career Firefighter of the Year* — R.M. Flowers; *Highest Grade Point Average at Wilson Fire Academy* — Robbie Taylor; *Firefighter-EMS Person of the Year (Beaufort County Grange)* — Otis Harrell.

April 29, 30 and May 1 at the Washington Civic Center. Hillary also had a speaking and singing role in the PS Jones Middle School production of *Bab Humbug! Scrooge’s Christmas Carol* in December. Luke Stroud, son of **Carolyn Stroud** (Communications Director), portrayed Spirit of Christmas Past. ♦ **Rita Thompson** (City Clerk) welcomed her third granddaughter, Cameron Jade Hawley, born on Dec. 15 to Rita’s daughter Angela. The baby weighed in at 8 lb., 8 oz. and measured 20 inches long. ♦ Vicki and **Adam Waters** (Public Works-Water Resources) celebrated the birth of a son, Evan McCotter Waters, on Oct. 28. Evan weighed in at 9 lbs., 5 oz. and measured 21 inches. ♦ **Carol Williams** (Finance Director) has a new granddaughter. Maci Gray was born on March 8 to Raymond and Candice Williams, weighing in at 6 lb., 13 oz. and measuring 19 inches.

Career

New Hires

♦ **Justin Woolard**, Mechanic (Public Works-General Services), **Timothy Hines**, Firefighter-EMT (Fire-Rescue-EMS), **Johnny Williams**, Firefighter-EMT (Fire-Rescue-EMS), **James Keyes**, Equipment Mechanic (Public Works-Garage) ♦ **William Rayburn, Jr.**, Maintenance Worker (Public Works-Drainage) ♦ **Jaime Vega-Gomez**,

Maintenance Mechanic (Public Works-Drainage) ♦ **Sandy Arnold, Jr.**, Welder (Public Works-Garage) ♦ **Andrew Dawley**, Police Officer (Police) ♦ **Eric Whitaker**, Electric Line Worker Trainee (Electric-Transmission & Distribution) ♦ **Stewart Rumley**, Interim City Manager (City Manager’s Office)

Promotions & Reassignments

♦ **Mark Yates**, Division Chief-Training (Fire-Rescue-EMS) ♦ **Robbie Rose**, Division Chief-Operations (Fire-Rescue-EMS) ♦ **Jasper Hardison**, Fire Marshal (Fire-Rescue-EMS) ♦ **Brian Rushton**, Fire and Life Safety Education-Lieutenant (Fire-Rescue-EMS) ♦ **Gary Johnson**, Engineer (Fire-Rescue-EMS) ♦ **Stephanie Compton**, School Resource Officer Trainee (Police) ♦ **Glen Whitehead**, Maintenance Worker II (Public Works-Drainage) ♦ **Sandy Blizzard**, Divisions Operations Chief-Major (Police) ♦ **Steve Szabo**, Division Commander-Lieutenant (Police) ♦ **William Chrismon**, Division Commander-Lieutenant (Police)

Retirements

♦ **Ronald Godley**, Sanitation Equipment Operator (Public Works-Sanitation) ♦ **Larry Rhem**, Welder (Public Works-Garage)

Achievements

♦ **Richard Alligood**, **David Dew**, **Bobby Godfrey**, **Al Leggett**, **Robert Lowe**, **Wesley Martin**, Journeyman Powerline Technician certificates from the NC and US Departments of Labor, Linemen Career Development certificate from ElectriCities (Electric-Transmission & Distribution) ♦ **Amber Carter**, NC Department of Insurance Fire Inspector Level I certification (Fire-Rescue-EMS) ♦ **Jimmy Davis**, **Jasper Hardison**, **Robbie Rose**, Associates Degree (Fire-Rescue-EMS) ♦ **Bruce Johnson**, A-Well certification (Public Works-Water Resources) ♦ **Carol Williams**, NC Government Finance Officers Board of Directors (Finance Director)

Help Wanted

Parks & Recreation is looking for seasonal employees for the following jobs: **Laborers.** Maintain grounds, fields, buildings and City recreational properties. \$6.42/hour.

Summer Programs Assistants. Age 18 years and up and able to work from June 13-July 22. \$5.83/hour.

Summer Program Swim Instructors. Have certifications and able to work from June 13-July 22. \$8.20/hour.

Facility Attendant. Oversee the waterfront docks. \$8.20 per hour. Obtain applications from the Human Resources Office at City Hall, 975-9305.